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United Nations

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Sixty-first session (4-8 October 2010)

General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth Session
Supplement No. 12A

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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I. Introduction

A. Opening of the session

1. The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme held its sixty-first plenary session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, from 4-8 October 2010. It was opened by the Chairman, His Excellency Ambassador Peter Woolcott (Australia).

2. The Chairman welcomed delegations, in particular Slovenia which was attending its first plenary session as a member of the Executive Committee.

B. Representation on the Committee

3. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zambia.

4. The Governments of the following States were present as observers:

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kuwait, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

5. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta was represented as an observer.

6. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities:

African Union, Council of Europe, Economic Community of West African States, European Union, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Organization for Migration, and Organization of the Islamic Conference.

7. The United Nations system was represented as follows:

Food and Agriculture Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and World Food Programme.

8. A total of 32 non-governmental organizations attended.

C. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

9. The Executive Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda (A/AC.96/1091):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Introductory statement by the High Commissioner.
4. General debate.
5. Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee:
   (a) International protection;
   (b) Programme budgets, management, financial control and administrative oversight.
6. Consideration of reports relating to programme and administrative oversight and evaluation.
7. Consideration and adoption of the Biennial Programme Budget 2010-2011 (revised).
8. Review of the Annual Consultations with non-governmental organizations.
9. Other statements.
10. Meetings of the Standing Committee in 2011.
11. Consideration of the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session of the Executive Committee.
12. Election of officers.
13. Any other business.
14. Adoption of the report of the sixty-first session of the Executive Committee.
15. Closing of the session.

D. Election of officers for the sixty-second session

10. Under Rule 10 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation, to serve the Committee from the day immediately following their election to the end of the last day of the following annual plenary session:

Chairperson:	H. E. Ambassador Hisham Badr (Egypt)
Vice-Chairperson:	H. E. Ambassador Jan Knutsson (Sweden)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Sofia Lascurain (Mexico)

II. Work of the sixty-first session

11. As the basis for the general debate, the High Commissioner delivered an opening statement, the text of which is available on UNHCR's website (www.unhcr.org). Prior to the High Commissioner's statement, the Executive Committee heard a pre-recorded message from the Secretary-General.[1]

12. A summary of the ensuing general debate, delivered by the Chairman, is contained in Annex III.

III. Conclusion and decisions of the Executive Committee

A. Conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by UNHCR

13. *The Executive Committee*,

Emphasizing that this Conclusion applies to refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by UNHCR in accordance with the provisions of international conventions and relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions,

Taking note of its Conclusions No. 47 (XXXVIII), No. 74 (XLV), No. 105 (LVII), No. 107 (LVIII), No. 108 (LIX) and No. 109 (LX) and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol on 3 May 2008,

Acknowledging that refugees and other persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various barriers, including attitudinal and environmental barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

Recalling the recognition by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the inherent dignity and equality of persons with disabilities, recognizing that disability is an evolving concept and acknowledging the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities,

Reaffirming the importance of mainstreaming age, gender and diversity in identifying and responding to the views and needs of all persons with disabilities; and taking note with appreciation of UNHCR's involvement in the inter-agency support group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol,

Recognizing that the specific needs of persons with disabilities are often overlooked, especially in the early phases of humanitarian emergencies, and that they, particularly women, children and older persons with disabilities, are exposed to

[1] See summary records of the session for a full account of the deliberations of the Committee, including statements or other interventions by delegations under all agenda items, and their comments on the conclusions and decisions, as well as summing up and closing statements by the High Commissioner and by the Chairman.

discrimination, exploitation, violence, and sexual and gender-based violence, and may be excluded from support and services,

Recognizing that children with disabilities are at a greater risk of abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation, health concerns, exposure to the risk of longer term psycho-social disturbances, family separation and denial of the right to education,

Acknowledging that services and facilities, including assistance programmes and protection, may be inaccessible to persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that refugees with disabilities may be excluded from support and services when repatriating and often have fewer opportunities for other durable solutions, namely local integration and resettlement,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to take all appropriate measures to protect and assist persons with disabilities, in all situations,

Recognizing that host States, which are often developing countries, have limited resources and face various challenges in providing such services and facilities; reaffirming, therefore, the international community and UNHCR's role to assist States in fulfilling these responsibilities, in the spirit of international cooperation and burden sharing,

(a) *Calls upon* States and UNHCR, in cooperation with relevant partners where applicable, to protect and assist refugees and other persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination and to provide sustainable and appropriate support in addressing all their needs;

(b) *Also calls* upon States, UNHCR and all relevant partners to raise awareness on disability issues and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, by providing training on the needs, rights and capabilities of refugees and other persons with disabilities, among other things;

(c) *Recommends* that States, UNHCR and relevant partners ensure where appropriate a swift and systematic identification and registration of refugees and other persons with disabilities, with particular attention to those who cannot communicate their own needs, in order to identify their protection and assistance needs, including as part of a global needs assessment;

(d) *Recommends* that States include refugees and other persons with disabilities in relevant policies and programmes and provide access to services, including through the issuance of relevant documentation;

(e) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and all relevant partners to ensure the participation of refugees and other persons with disabilities through appropriate consultation in the design and implementation of relevant services and programmes;

(f) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and all partners to communicate information, procedures, decisions and policies appropriately to ensure that these are accessible and understood by refugees and other persons with disabilities;

(g) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and partners to enable children and youth with disabilities to access appropriate protection, assistance and education, and to ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities, protected and assisted by UNHCR, in programmes to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of exploitation;

(h) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and relevant partners to adopt and implement appropriate and reasonable accessibility standards, including at the start of an emergency, and to ensure that all mainstream services and programmes as well as specialized services are accessible to persons with disabilities, including those services and programmes provided within the framework of international cooperation;

(i) *Reaffirms* the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of refugees and other persons with disabilities, particularly in developing countries, through ensuring timely availability of adequate humanitarian and development funding and other resources, including sufficient support for host communities;

(j) *Recommends* that States and UNHCR, as applicable, ensure that refugee status determination and all other relevant procedures are accessible and designed to enable persons with disabilities to fully and fairly represent their claims with the necessary support;

(k) *Recommends* that States, in cooperation with UNHCR and relevant partners, ensure that refugees with disabilities have equality of opportunity for durable solutions and are provided appropriate support;

(l) *Recommends* that States, in cooperation with UNHCR and relevant partners upon request, ensure that persons with disabilities, other than refugees, protected and assisted by UNHCR have equality of opportunity for solutions and are provided appropriate support;

(m) *Requests* UNHCR to include disability awareness in its policy guidelines and training programmes and to ensure that relevant policies, guidelines and operating standards for UNHCR staff and implementing partners are in line with this Conclusion;

(n) *Requests* UNHCR to provide Member States with periodic updates on the follow-up to this Conclusion, including relevant financial data.

B. General decision on administrative, financial and programme matters

14. *The Executive Committee*,

(a) *Confirms* that the activities proposed under the Biennial Programme Budget for the years 2010-2011, as set out in documents A/AC.96/1087 and A/AC.96/1087/Add.2, have been found on review to be consistent with the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner (General Assembly Resolution 428 (V)), the High Commissioner's other functions as recognized, promoted or requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council, or the Secretary-General; and the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, including articles 6, 7, 8 and 11;

(b) *Recalls* that the Executive Committee, at its sixtieth session, approved programmes and budgets for Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters under UNHCR's 2010-2011 Biennial Programme Budget amounting to a total of $3,007,297,300 in 2010, comprising programmed activities of $2,778,471,100, the United Nations Regular Budget contribution towards headquarters costs, an Operational Reserve (representing 10 per cent of programmed activities under Pillars 1 and II) of $196,826,200, an amount of $20 million for the "New or additional activities — mandate-related" Reserve, and $12.0 million for Junior Professional Officers; approves the 2010 supplementary budgets currently amounting to $281,432,331, bringing total revised requirements for 2010 to $3,288,729,631

and authorizes the High Commissioner within these total appropriations, to effect adjustments in Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters budgets, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, including sub-articles 7.4, 7.5, 8.1, 8.2 and 11.1;

(c) *Approves* the programmes and budgets for Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters under the revised 2011 Programme Budget amounting to $3,288,830,000, including the United Nations Regular Budget contribution towards Headquarters costs, and an Operational Reserve (representing 10 per cent of programmed activities under Pillars I and II) of $219,310,054; notes that these provisions, together with those of $12.0 million for Junior Professional Officers and an amount of $20 million for the "New or additional activities — mandate-related" Reserve bring total requirements for 2011 to $3,320,830,000; and authorizes the High Commissioner within these total appropriations, to effect adjustments in Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters budgets, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, including sub-articles 7.4, 7.5, 8.1, 8.2 and 11.1;

(d) *Notes* the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2009 (A/AC.96/1083), and the High Commissioner's Measures Taken in Response to the Recommendations of the Report of the Board of Auditors (A/AC.96/1086/Add.1); as well as the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on UNHCR's Biennial Programme Budget for 2010-2011 (A/AC.96/1087/Add.1) and the various reports of the High Commissioner related to oversight activities (A/AC.96/1088 and A/AC.96/1089); and requests to be kept regularly informed on the measures taken to address the recommendations and the observations raised in these various oversight documents;

(e) *Requests* the High Commissioner, within the resources available, to respond flexibly and efficiently to the needs currently indicated under the revised Biennial Programme Budget for the years 2010-2011; and authorizes him, in the case of additional new emergency needs that cannot be met fully from the Operational Reserve, to create supplementary budgets and issue special appeals under all pillars, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, including sub-articles 7.4, 7.5, 8.1, 8.2 and 11.1, with such adjustments being reported to each subsequent Standing Committee for consideration;

(f) *Acknowledges* with appreciation the burden that continues to be shouldered by developing and least developed countries hosting refugees; and urges Member States to recognize this valuable contribution to the protection of refugees and to participate in efforts to promote durable solutions; and

(g) *Urges* Member States, in the light of the extensive needs to be addressed by the Office of the High Commissioner, to respond generously and in a spirit of solidarity, and in a timely manner, to his appeal for resources to meet in full the approved revised 2010-2011 Biennial Programme Budget; and to support initiatives to ensure that the Office is resourced in a better and more predictable manner, while keeping "earmarking" to a minimum level.

C. Decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2011

15. *The Executive Committee*

Having reviewed the issues before it at its sixty-first session, and bearing in mind the decisions and conclusion adopted at that session,

(a) *Decides* to convene no more than three formal meetings of the Standing Committee in 2011, to be held in March, June and September;

(b) *Reaffirms* its decision on the framework for the Standing Committee's programme of work (A/AC.96/1003 paragraph 25, sub-paragraph 2(c)), authorizes the Standing Committee to add and delete items, if appropriate, to this framework for its meetings in 2011 and requests member States to meet in December 2010 to draw up a detailed work plan for formal adoption by the Standing Committee at its first meeting in 2011;

(c) *Calls upon* its members to continue efforts to ensure that debate at the Executive Committee and its Standing Committee be of a substantive and interactive nature, yielding practical guidance and clear advice to the High Commissioner, in keeping with the Committee's statutory functions; and calls on the Office of the High Commissioner to be explicit and analytical in its reports and presentations to the Committee and to submit documentation in a timely manner;

(d) *Further* requests the Standing Committee to report on its work to the sixty-second session of the Executive Committee.

D. Decision on observer participation in meetings of the Standing Committee in 2010-2011

16. *The Executive Committee*,

(a) *Approves* applications by the following Government observer delegations for participation in meetings of the Standing Committee from October 2010 to October 2011:

Croatia, Iraq, Malaysia and Slovakia;

(b) *Authorizes* the Standing Committee to decide upon any additional applications from Government observer delegations to participate in its meetings during the aforementioned period;

(c) *Approves* the following list of intergovernmental and international organizations to be invited by the High Commissioner to participate as observers in relevant meetings of its Standing Committee from October 2010 to October 2011:

United Nations specialized agencies, departments, funds and programmes, African Union, Council of Europe, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, European Union, Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, International Organisation of "la Francophonie", Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organisation for Security and

Cooperation in Europe, Southern African Development Community and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

E. Decision on the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session of the Executive Committee

17. *The Executive Committee,*

Recalling its decision on working methods adopted at its fifty-fifth plenary session (A/AC.96/1003 paragraph 25),

Decides to adopt as the provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Executive Committee the standard model contained in sub-paragraph 1(f) of the above-mentioned decision.

Annex I

List of decisions adopted by the Standing Committee in 2010

In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions which are annexed to the reports of the different Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

(a) *Report of the forty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1084):

- Decision on programme budgets and funding in 2010.

(b) *Report of the forty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1092):

- Decision on UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013;
- Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2010.

(c) *Report of the forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1093):

- Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2010.

Annex II

Conclusion and decision adopted by the Executive Committee at the Extraordinary Meeting of 8 December 2009 of its sixty-first session

A. Conclusion on protracted refugee situations

The Executive Committee,

Recalling the principles, guidance and approaches elaborated in previous Conclusions of the Executive Committee which are pertinent to protracted situations,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the High Commissioner to maximize all opportunities to unlock and find comprehensive solutions to the existing protracted refugee situations, including the convening in 2008 of a High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges on the specific topic of protracted refugee situations,

Noting with deep concern the plight of millions of refugees worldwide who continue to be trapped in "protracted refugee situations" for 5 years or more after their initial displacement, without immediate prospects for implementation of durable solutions,

Noting with concern the detrimental effects of long-lasting and intractable exile on the physical, mental, social, cultural and economic well-being of refugees,

Recognizing that priorities for responding to protracted refugee situations are different from those for responding to emergency situations,

Further recalling the need for the countries of origin to undertake all possible measures to prevent refugee situations, particularly those that can become protracted, to address their root causes, and to promote and facilitate with the full cooperation of host countries, the international community, UNHCR, and all other relevant actors, refugees' voluntary return home from exile and their sustainable reintegration in safety, dignity and social and economic security,

Recognizing that, in principle, all refugees should have the right to have restored to them or be compensated for any housing, land or property of which they were deprived in an illegal, discriminatory or arbitrary manner before or during exile; noting, therefore, the potential need for fair and effective restitution mechanisms,

Acknowledging that protracted refugee situations also impose considerable burdens and generate significant problems and challenges in different sectors for host States and communities which are often developing, in transition, or with limited resources and facing other constraints,

Affirming that support should be provided for addressing the problems and needs of the host States, especially the local host communities, which face additional social and economic difficulties and suffer negative consequences to their local environment and natural resources,

Expressing deep appreciation for the generosity, commitment and determination which these States nevertheless continue to demonstrate in hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, providing protection and facilitating essential humanitarian interventions on their behalf, in keeping with international refugee law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law as applicable,

Thanking those States which have taken measures to bring to an end some of the most enduring refugee situations including through concrete support to the voluntary return to the

country of origin, local integration, the provision of resettlement places; and the acquisition of citizenship through naturalization where this has taken place,

Acknowledging that, while awaiting the implementation of a durable solution, refugees may make positive contributions to their host societies drawing on opportunities to become self-reliant and noting the importance of participatory approaches in this regard,

Noting the importance of refugee access to basic services, including education and health, in order to enhance their opportunities,

Further acknowledging that in times of global financial and economic crises, the impacts are severe for the most vulnerable, not least refugees in protracted situations and their host countries, and the need to give special attention to those who are most affected by the crises is therefore all the greater,

Underlining that the status quo is not an acceptable option and, while every situation is unique, all feasible and practical efforts should be taken to unlock all continuing protracted situations especially through the implementation of durable solutions in the spirit of international solidarity and burden sharing,

Reiterating that voluntary repatriation remains the preferred durable solution of refugee situations and that, while one or another solution may be more directly applicable to each of the respective protracted situations, all solutions will usually complement and intersect with each other, requiring careful tailoring, sequencing and phasing in some situations, and simultaneous application in others,

Mindful that there are compelling legal, protection, health, social and economic problems in all situations which can become protracted and should therefore also receive due attention,

Noting that, vis-à-vis Palestinian refugees, this Conclusion shall only be implemented subject to Article 1d of the 1951 Convention, Article 7c of the UNHCR Statute and in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions relevant to the issue,

Further noting that States' domestic laws could offer more protection and assistance, as appropriate, than outlined in the 1951 Convention,

(a) *Calls upon* States and all other relevant actors to commit themselves, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden sharing, to comprehensive, multilateral and multi-sectoral collaboration and action in addressing the root causes of protracted refugee situations; in ensuring that people are not compelled to flee their countries of origin in the first place to find safety elsewhere; and in resolving the protracted refugee situations which persist, in full respect for the rights of the affected persons;

(b) *Recognizes* the importance of political will in securing comprehensive solutions for protracted displacement and calls upon States to act as catalysts to unlock protracted refugee situations and begin progress towards the resolution of these situations;

(c) *Expresses* concern about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, while bearing in mind broader political processes that may be under way to address protracted refugee situations, including their root causes;

(d) *Strongly* reaffirms the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and

recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

(e) *Calls* on countries of origin, countries of asylum, UNHCR, and the international community to take all necessary measures to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home freely in safety and dignity while recalling that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return;

(f) *Underlines* the responsibility of countries of origin, with the help of the international community where appropriate, to create and/or ensure conditions for refugees to regain the rights of which they were deprived before or during exile, even after refugees have remained in exile for extended periods of time, and to enable and consolidate their sustainable return and reintegration free of fear;

(g) *Recommends* further that action to address and facilitate durable solutions, with a view to burden and responsibility sharing, be directed, as appropriate, in the form of voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement in third countries or, where applicable, in a strategic combination, and assistance to host countries, including through:

(i) the provision of financial assistance and other forms of support in situations where voluntary repatriation is foreseeable or taking place, in particular bearing in mind that voluntary repatriation is the preferred solution;

(ii) where local integration is appropriate and feasible, the provision of financial assistance and other forms of support, including development assistance, for the benefit of refugees and the communities hosting them so as to assist countries of asylum in integrating refugees locally;

(iii) the more effective and strategic use of resettlement as a tool of burden and responsibility sharing, including through the application of a group resettlement referral methodology;

(iv) the mobilization of support for rehabilitating refugee-impacted areas in the host country from which refugees have returned;

(h) *Recalling* that local integration is a sovereign decision and an option that may be exercised by States considering the specific circumstances of each refugee situation, encourages States and UNHCR, in consultation with other relevant actors, to consider local integration where appropriate and feasible and in a manner that takes into account the needs, views, and impact on the hosting communities and refugees;

(i) *Encourages* States and UNHCR to actively pursue, the strategic and increased use of resettlement in a spirit of international burden and responsibility sharing; and calls upon States, with the capacity to do so, to provide resettlement places and to explore more flexible approaches consistent with national legislation and regulations to bridge gaps which may exist between the resettlement criteria they use and the specific needs and situation of refugees in protracted situations, who may face difficulties in articulating a detailed claim or other constraints;

(j) *Urges* States, UNHCR and other partners to continue pursuing proactive measures in a manner that reduces dependency, promotes the self-sufficiency of refugees towards enhancing their protection and dignity, helps them manage their time spent in exile effectively and constructively and invests in future durable solutions;

(k) *Recognizes* that protracted refugee situations can increase the risks to which refugees may be exposed and that, in this respect, there is a need to identify and respond effectively to the specific protection concerns of men, women, girls and boys, in particular, unaccompanied and separated children, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and older persons, who may be exposed to heightened risks, including sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of violence and exploitation; and encourages UNHCR and States to pursue age, gender and diversity mainstreaming and participatory approaches with a view to enhancing the safety, well-being and development of refugees and promoting appropriate solutions for them;

(l) *Requests* UNHCR to enhance its efforts to raise awareness, including among refugees, through the organization of regular campaigns and local and regional workshops on durable solutions;

(m) *Encourages* States, and within their mandate, UNHCR and all other relevant actors to pursue comprehensive approaches toward the implementation of durable solutions and to take protracted refugee situations into consideration in their endeavours in order to create the necessary conditions to bring displacement to an end;

(n) *Urges* States, UNHCR and humanitarian and development partners to pursue active and effective partnerships and coordination in implementation of durable solutions, and to develop new opportunities for partnership including through engaging in and implementing in full the objectives of the Delivering as One initiative; increased information exchange and advice given to the United Nations Peace building Commission; and partnerships with other actors such as international financial institutions, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group, regional bodies, parliaments, local governments, mayors, business leaders, the media and diaspora communities;

(o) *While* reiterating that there is no "one size" which fits all protracted situations, affirms that good practices and lessons learned in protracted situations could prove valuable; and recommends to UNHCR, host countries, countries of origin, resettlement countries and other stakeholders the use of "core" or "working" or "reference" groups, or other similar mechanisms which may be established in the Field and/or in Geneva as appropriate, as a useful methodology to identify appropriate innovative, practical solutions, built around particular situations or themes, within a sub-regional, regional or multilateral context, for specific protracted situations;

(p) *Reaffirms* its call to the international community at large, in cooperation with UNHCR and other international organizations, to ensure, in a spirit of burden sharing, timely availability of adequate development and humanitarian funding and other resources, including sufficient support for host communities and countries of origin in order to provide assistance and achieve durable solutions in protracted refugee situations.

B. Decision on a revision of UNHCR's Financial Rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees

The Executive Committee,

Having considered the proposed revision of the current Financial rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/503/Rev.8),

Notes the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on earlier drafts (A.AC/96/1068/Add.1), as well as the advice of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS);

Endorses the proposed revision and requests the High Commissioner to promulgate the revised Financial rules with effect from 1 January 2010.

Annex III

Chairman's Summary of the General Debate

1. The High Commissioner's comprehensive presentation and the insightful dialogue that followed had provided a good start to a year when UNHCR would be commemorating the anniversaries of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and its own 60th anniversary. Many delegations congratulated the High Commissioner on his re-election, and expressed appreciation for his visits to their countries and his skilful leadership of UNHCR's efforts to help refugees, the stateless, other persons of concern and internally displaced persons. They also paid tribute to the dedication of his staff. Delegations remarked that UNHCR staff often worked in dangerous and difficult situations, and in particular, they paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in the course of their duties. With regard to current United Nations moves to harmonize conditions of service for staff members, speakers noted the High Commissioner's appeal to preserve structured support for family members of staff serving in hardship, non-family duty stations.

2. Delegations indicated that they were looking forward to participating in the commemorative activities. This would provide an opportunity to raise public awareness of refugee issues and past achievements; but, more importantly, it would allow States to renew their commitment to UNHCR and consider how to address the new challenges that confronted all concerned. Many speakers called for countries to ratify these Conventions and also expressed support for a strengthening of the protection mandate of the Office and a renewed focus on statelessness; the need for all parties to respect international humanitarian law and refugee law; and the principles underlying UNHCR's humanitarian operations, including *non-refoulement*.

3. Delegations agreed with the High Commissioner that the international community was facing many new challenges: the increasing intractability of conflict; devastating natural disasters; the negative effects of climate change; recent economic and financial crises; food, water and energy scarcity; increased urbanization; and environmental degradation. All of these contributed to additional forced displacement and exacerbated existing challenges — protracted refugee situations; shrinking humanitarian space; difficulties in gaining access to victims; assuring security for staff in the field; addressing the needs of women and children; and dealing with the complexities of mixed migration flows, human trafficking and smuggling.

4. Delegations had commented widely on how UNHCR could best prepare to meet these problems. Many had expressed support for UNHCR's introduction of results-based management and budgeting and the Global Needs Assessment, while calling for a transparent dialogue with ExCom members on these issues. They had also encouraged UNHCR to review its funding approaches, in order to seek additional resources, including from the private sector. In this regard, it was encouraging that several States were making substantial increases to their annual contributions.

5. In addition, some delegations welcomed the establishment of an independent advisory committee on oversight and improved accountability in the budgetary process. Other delegations pointed out the need for international solidarity and burden-sharing and noted the considerable contributions made by host countries themselves, acknowledging the substantial burdens they had borne in hosting large numbers of refugees.

6. While recognizing the significant leadership role that UNHCR played through the cluster approach and humanitarian reform, speakers had noted that UNHCR could not achieve the goals it was tasked to reach, operating on its own. They had called for increased cooperation and partnership with a variety of actors including: DPKO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, OCHA, the IASC, as well as humanitarian and development partners, IOM, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and NGOs. And many had underlined the particular value and importance of different aspects of partnership between UNHCR and member States, including capacity building.

7. Many delegations welcomed UNHCR's willingness to undertake responsibility for persons displaced as a result of natural disasters under certain conditions — where no clear alternative leadership was present and where the affected State requested assistance. At the same time, they had noted that this should be done in consultation with member States, and should not come at the expense of UNHCR fulfilling its existing mandate responsibilities with regard to refugees, the stateless, or people of concern to the Office who had been displaced internally by conflict situations. This would also imply careful consideration of UNHCR's capacity to respond in terms of relevant financial and human resource implications.

8. As always, delegations stressed the importance of continuing the search for durable solutions, especially for those in protracted situations. While voluntary repatriation remained the preferred solution, they noted the role local integration and resettlement could play where voluntary repatriation was not feasible. Some delegations had reiterated calls for countries which were in a position to do so to consider offering more places for resettlement. In this regard, the United Republic of Tanzania's local integration of Burundian refugees was a noteworthy achievement, and the Committee welcomed the increase in the number of States who had indicated that they would participate in resettlement opportunities. At the same time, a few delegations expressed the hope that where repatriation efforts were ongoing, they might proceed in a more expeditious manner.

9. The Committee was heartened to hear new commitments from a number of States ready to amend their national legislation to help resolve problems of statelessness, including through birth registration and the provision of documentation. These were tangible examples of protection for some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

10. Many speakers also expressed support for more specific initiatives being undertaken by the Office including programmes to assist urban refugees; the Mexico Plan of Action; and efforts to improve the security situation for staff. Several delegations indicated they were looking forward to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection on the theme "Protection gaps and responses", that would take place at the end of 2010.

11. In addition, delegations welcomed efforts at the field level to enhance self-reliance and livelihood opportunities, improve education, carry out birth registration, address the special needs of women and children, including the problems of sexual and gender-based violence, and address the needs of the disabled. Here, many welcomed the Executive Committee Conclusion on "refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by UNHCR." Each of these programmes would enhance efforts to promote "human security".

12. The situation in individual countries was also a significant part of the overall discussion. Concerns were raised about States severely affected by natural disasters, such as Haiti and Pakistan, or where continuing conflict had contributed to large numbers of displaced persons such as in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Sudan. More optimistically, many delegations commented on various efforts they were undertaking to assist displaced persons in their own countries — through programmes, projects, national

legislation, or regional conferences. Of particular note was the recent meeting of the African Union in Kampala, Uganda, that resulted in the Convention on Protection of IDPs in Africa.

13. In conclusion, the Committee had acknowledged that UNHCR and the international community faced significant challenges — both new and old. But UNHCR's reforms in the areas of budget and management; enhanced cooperation with a wide range of partners; new initiatives being developed regarding protection, security, urban refugees, migration, and IDPs; enhanced donor support and resettlement opportunities; and a variety of new approaches being carried out by member States themselves, all left room for hope in the face of these daunting challenges.

14. In the coming year when the Committee would commemorate two of the most important conventions affecting people of concern to UNHCR, the Chairman expressed the hope that, in the words of one delegation, it would be possible to "celebrate 2011 by revitalizing the international community's humanitarian commitments and engage in more effective partnership to address the protection challenges of current times".

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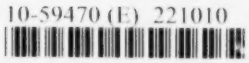

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